

Space News ROUNDUP!

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JSC contractors win Low Award for quality

JSC aircraft operations contractor DynCorp and space suit contractor ILC Dover Inc., are two of five aerospace companies awarded the space agency's highest honor for excellence and quality this month.

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin presented the 1998 George M. Low Award to the companies at the 13th annual NASA Continual Improvement and Reinvention Conference on Quality Management in Alexandria, Va. The award, established in 1985, is NASA's

highest quality and excellence award for contractors and subcontractors and the oldest award for organizational quality.

"These companies exemplify excellence and outstanding achievements that prove beneficial to NASA and the nation's industry," Goldin said.

DynCorp supports a wide array of aircraft equipment and systems at Ellington Field, and the success of NASA's astronaut training program and shuttle mission support pro-

grams are directly related to its performance.

ILC Dover specializes in developing high-technology engineered soft-goods, and has a long record of outstanding performance in the development of EVA space suits, with a field group at JSC supporting them.

"Johnson Space Center is extremely proud to have such hard working and quality-conscious partners," said JSC Director George Abbey. "The work DynCorp does is

critical to the training of our astronauts and the safe, efficient operation of JSC's varied aircraft fleet. ILC Dover's work at JSC gives space walking astronauts the security and flexibility to do construction work in space that will become even more critical as we begin to build the International Space Station. I congratulate both DynCorp and ILC Dover on this well-deserved honor."

DynCorp's Johnson Support Division and Allied Signal Technical Please see **NATIONAL**, Page 8



JSC Photo S98-06855 by Steve Candler

Kevin Beard, lead auditor for the National Quality Assurance USA, presents the Certificate of Registration to JSC Director George Abbey at a May 13 ceremony recognizing JSC as the first NASA field center to earn ISO 9001 certification.

JSC earns ISO 9001 certificate

JSC is the first NASA field center to earn ISO 9001 certification and one of the largest U.S. research and development organizations so honored.

National Quality Assurance USA presented the certificate of ISO 9001 registration to JSC Director George Abbey on May 13. The presentation followed a successful independent audit by NQA of the JSC Quality System in late February.

The third-party auditors examined such areas as management commitment, design control, documentation, purchasing, test and inspection, and corrective action procedures. NQA found that JSC met or exceeded the stringent quality standards in all areas.

"This certification is a significant testimonial to the excellence of our quality system at JSC, and also serves as a starting point for continuing improvement of our overall technical and management processes," Abbey said.

ISO 9001 comprises the most detailed, comprehensive set of standard requirements for quality programs established by the International Standards Organization. To date, nearly 20,000 U.S. organizations have received ISO 9001 certification.

All NASA centers are required by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin to be ISO 9001 registered by September 1999. NASA is the first federal agency to seek the quality certification.

JSC's certification applies to all center human space flight responsibilities, including program and project management, spacecraft engineering and design, flight crew training, space and life sciences research, and mission operations in support of NASA's Human Exploration and Development of Space enterprise.

JSC began with a project program in its Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance directorate in 1995. In 1996, White Sands Test Facility received its ISO registration. ISO requirements became JSC's official quality program for the entire center in May 1997.

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Barrios, Johnson Engineering earn kudos

Pair earns Small Business Contractor of Year awards

Barrios Technology, Inc. and Johnson Engineering Corp. recently were selected as JSC's 1998 Small Business Contractor of the Year by JSC Director George Abbey.

The distinguished awards were presented by Business Management Director Jim Shannon to Sandy Johnson, president of Barrios Technology, and Tom Short, president of Johnson Engineering, at the Government Procurement Connection '98 awards and appreciation luncheon at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

"The work performed by these two contrac-

tors has been exemplary," Abbey said. "They have proven to be key players in this center's operation and management of the agency's human space flight programs. Their work has been instrumental in the Space Shuttle Program and will be crucial to the success of the International Space Station Program. Congratulations to both Barrios and Johnson Engineering on earning these well-deserved honors."

Barrios was selected for its outstanding effort in providing Information Systems Analysis and

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Discovery launch marks start of new space era

By John Ira Petty

With a new launch date and a new, super-lightweight external tank, the Space Shuttle *Discovery* moved closer to its 24th flight, the ninth and final docking with the Russian Space Station Mir. The mission will complete Phase 1 of the International Space Station Program.

Shuttle managers were set to meet Wednesday to review mission preparations and set an official launch date. The launch target date has been moved to June 2, providing additional time to accommodate orbiter processing and launch preparations at Pad 39A.

The new super lightweight external

tank weighs about 7,500 pounds less than the original. The tank arrived at Kennedy Space Center's turning basin in early February for testing and pre-launch processing and underwent a tanking test on Monday.

STS-91 Commander Charlie Precourt will be making his fourth space flight. Pilot Dom Gorie will make his first flight; Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence her fourth flight; Mission Specialist Franklin Chang-Díaz, his sixth flight; and Mission Specialist Janet Kavandi her first flight. Russian Valery Ryumin will be making his fourth space flight, his first as a mission specialist.

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JSC Photo STS-90-S-014 by Hector Gongora

SIGN HERE—STS-90 Payload Specialist Jim Pawelczyk shakes hands with students from Westwood Elementary School. Hundreds of third and fourth graders from the Friendswood school who adopted the Neurolab mission in their studies joined the Neurolab crew's friends, family members and coworkers in welcoming them home on May 4 at Ellington Field's Hangar 990.